

Vice Admiral George Sterner's innovation and vision positioned Naval Sea Systems Command for the 21st century and beyond. He is an individual of uncommon character, and his superb leadership and service will be sincerely missed. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to recognize him today and thank him for his honorable service in the United States Navy, and wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he brings to a close his distinguished career.

IN HONOR OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
FREE ENTERPRISE WEEK

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the citizens of Pennsylvania to pay special tribute to the Foundation for Free Enterprise Education which this year is celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week.

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week is a seven-day economic education program providing Pennsylvania high school students and teachers at all levels, a practical, in-depth course on the American system of private enterprise and the operations of a free market. Over 1,100 students and teachers will join together with more than 200 Pennsylvania businessmen and businesswomen in order to experience and explore the challenge of healthy competition through a business management simulation, to hear top leaders in Pennsylvania business and government speak on the issues facing American business and industry, and, to participate in a series of specially formulated projects designed to acquaint them with the inner workings of a modern-day business.

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week is celebrating its more than 12,000 graduates representing more than 900 high schools in every county of this Commonwealth who have returned to their schools and communities with a vastly improved understanding of the world of business.

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week is now recognized as the largest, most successful economic education program of its kind in the world. Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week has now attained both national and international acclamation by its receipt of the 1987 National Award for Excellence in Economic Education from the Freedom's Foundation in Valley Forge, by being instrumental in starting similar programs in twenty-seven other states as well as in the country of New Zealand, by hosting students from the countries of Puerto Rico, Mexico and Russia and by serving as hosts in 1994 to a contingent of business people from Australia, seeking to pattern a program after Pennsylvania's.

I applaud Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week which continues to fulfill its mission of providing the highest quality economic education to the youth and educators of Pennsylvania, thereby insuring a brighter future for the Commonwealth.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. S. SUE
SHEAR

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable S. Sue Shear, a Representative from the 83rd Legislative District. She is currently serving her 13th term in the Missouri House of Representatives. Her district takes in all or part of six communities: Clayton, Ladue, Olivette, Creve Coeur, Overland and University City.

Representative Shear has spent the last 26 years fighting for the rights of women, bettering conditions for Missouri's children, older adults, the disabled, health care in general and working to improve the conditions in Missouri's prisons. She sponsored numerous measures reflecting her commitment to the environment, working people, and consumers. She was the original author of the award winning "Parents as Teachers" program, first established in Missouri and now a national model. One of the battles not won was for the Equal Rights Amendment of which she was the original sponsor and for which she became the symbol for women across the state. Susie has also become an icon; treated with respect and affection by fellow legislators, especially women colleagues who have dubbed her "the mother of us all." The Missouri house honored her at the close of its current session with a renewed commitment to women's equality in her honor.

Susie was born March 17, 1918. Now the senior woman in the House of Representatives, Susie recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She married the late Harry D. Shear and they had three children: M. Katherine, a psychiatrist; Kenneth R., a lawyer; and Kerry R., an art historian. Ken wrote a letter to her on her 75th birthday in which he said: "Going to Jeff City with you last month brought home to me just what an accomplishment you have made, without a college degree, without a law degree, to have forged yourself a role as one of the leaders of state government. The way I see it, you created a situation in which you had the role of being a leading spokeswoman for feminist and liberal causes, before you quite knew how to fill the role. And then you grew into it. A neat trick."

Perhaps Susie's greatest legacy is her clear commitment to stand firm in her beliefs. For this and many of her attributes, Women in Public Life at the University of Missouri-St. Louis will aptly bear her name. She has inspired, nurtured, and taught many women the skills they need to make their way in the world.

I am very fortunate to have served with her for 18 years in the Missouri General Assembly. I unabashedly called her "Mom." She was the mother I needed as I made my way as a young woman through the trials and tribulations of public service. In her Darwinian function, she gave birth to me in the political arena, set standards she expected me to meet, and shoved me out of the nest to become a member of Congress.

Susie is retiring this year after serving 26 years in the Missouri House. Her children and grandchildren are to be commended for their generosity in sharing her with the broader com-

munity, our state and nation. The world is a better place for her life of public service. Thank you, Mom, for teaching me the joy of giving back to society.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION
MONTH

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to take advantage of the fact that this is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month to speak about this important and far reaching problem in my community and many others across this nation, and to thank my colleagues Ms. CLAYTON and Mrs. MORELLA for their leadership in calling this evening's special order.

According to statistical data provided by the Virgin Islands Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics and other sources, the incidence of sexual activity among the adolescent and young adult populations in the Territory is very high. Within a five year period from 1992-1996 there were 11,810 live births recorded in the Virgin Islands. Of those births, 25.7% were born to white non-Hispanic mothers ages 13-24 years of age; 44.3% to black, non-Hispanic mothers and 50.3% to Hispanic mothers in the same age group.

Additionally, information provided by the national campaign to prevent teen pregnancy showed that birth rates for Virgin Islands teenagers ages 15-19 in 1995, though down from 1991 figures of 77.9%, were still at a very high 63%. But there is another distressing message underlying these statistics which cannot be overlooked; that is that our teens are having unprotected sex.

As these numbers indicate the incidence of teenage pregnancy is declining, albeit slowly, and my community, as well as all other communities need to view this issue not only as a problem of young people having children before they are mature enough to accept and carry out the responsibilities of parenting, but as but a symptom of larger, much deeper issues of the poor and unhealthy socio-economic environment which creates and fosters this and other problems in minority youth.

The best teen pregnancy prevention program would be to pass much of the Democratic agenda. Let's rebuild and construct new schools, hire and train more teachers, and improve our public educational system.

Let's create more opportunities for a college education, jobs, business and home ownership. Let's fully fund our health care proposals.

I have developed and worked in programs and clinics which serve pregnant teens.

Too often we miss the opportunity to prevent second pregnancies, but a comprehensive program, which provides all of the supportive services, and which includes counseling, esteem building, and coordination with the schools the young parents attend is very effective.

We also have to effectively and firmly deal with the older men who prey on our young women and are most often the fathers of the children they bear.

Most of all parents cannot abandon their children once they have made this first mistake. That has proven to be the most important factor in how well we prevent the next

pregnancy and whether the young woman returns to school and continues to pursue an education and career.

But it is the best interests of all—mother, child and community—that we help our children to delay pregnancy and the duties of parenthood, so that they themselves can continue to grow and develop and deal effectively with the many difficult issues of adolescence. This is necessary to provide healthy and productive adults. Furthermore, the children of adolescents are generally being raised by persons who are children themselves, without the benefit of the extended families of years past. They just don't have the parenting skills or the tolerance with maturity, and the children they raise demonstrate these deficiencies.

Therefore, what we need to do is to fix our neighborhoods, provide a good public educational system, to make sure that there are comprehensive health facilities which are accessible to the entire family, and to open up opportunities for self-fulfillment other than parenthood. For many of our youngsters, there is nothing else, and that is our fault, not theirs.

PROBLEMS WITH THE FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENT COMPETITION ACT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 716. Simply put, this legislation states the Government's role and service function is for sale. The current draft, which was the subject of a joint House-Senate hearing on May 24, would replace the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76 Cost Comparison study. This detailed review process is the current system for competing and comparing commercial services between federal employees and contractor employees. The revised H.R. 716 turns out less objective and more ideological. Furthermore, this new policy provides a bias toward contracting out and would place the Government's role and service function up for bid over a 5 year period.

Currently, the federal government contracts out \$110 billion annually. Under the policy of H.R. 716, the absence of sound Cost Comparison studies would allow private contractors to receive work without competing against federal workers. This simply results in a loss of federal employee jobs and questionable cost savings for taxpayers. What kind of message does Congress relay to a hard working federal workforce in our Districts and across the nation after their outstanding participation in the Vice President's reinventing government program? We should provide adequate resources and tools necessary to our valued federal employees.

H.R. 716 has three flaws:

(1) This legislation would replace the OMB Circular A-76 Cost Comparison study in favor of a pro-contractor system. Currently, federal employees regularly lose the competitions conducted under the OMB Circular A-76. Only a few years ago, federal employees lost approximately 70% of all contracts. Thanks to the continuing efforts of federal employees to reinvent themselves, they now win one-half of

the public-private competitions. This dramatic change in fortunes for the contractors has inspired this recent legislative effort to do away with the OMB Circular A-76.

(2) This legislation would make public-private competitions subject to work which is inherently governmental. H.R. 716 would allow contractors to protest agencies' decisions to keep work in-house. In addition, this bill would allow contractors to challenge agency awards in federal claims court. As might be expected, federal employees would be forbidden from both challenging agencies' decisions about what is inherently governmental and would be bullied by the threat of costly and protracted litigation into contracting out as much work as possible. Decisions about awards and what is inherently governmental should continue to be made by department officials who are most familiar with the services actually provided.

(3) This legislation would mandate public-private competitions under a pro-contractor successor to the Cost Comparison study regardless of how well federal employees are actually performing their jobs.

After 12 years of Reagan-Bush political appointees, who largely disdained the public sector and racked up the largest service contracting out bills in the nation's history, it is difficult to argue that the reason more work has not been contracted out is to protect federal employees. Federal employees consistently and efficiently deliver the needs of service department customers at the prices taxpayers can afford. If federal employees are performing satisfactorily, then there is no need to impose public-private competitions.

Finally, the savings generated from this disruptive system of competitions would be short-lived and could very well disappear soon thereafter. Work contracted out is unlikely to ever be brought back in house because of the expense of recapitalizing in house capability and reassembling and retraining the necessary staff.

Moreover, this legislation fails to address several very serious problems:

Arbitrary personnel ceilings are already forcing work to be contracted out. Federal agencies do not have enough employees, so they simply contract out the work without any public-private cost comparisons. The size of the federal workforce has been dramatically reduced. Ironically, the American people have not been told federal employees are being replaced with contractor employees, often at greater expense.

Champions of contracting out say that private sector firms generate savings for taxpayers by devising more efficient ways of delivering services. However, some contracting out is done to devise better ways of delivering services and reducing their incentive to provide substandard wages and benefits. Today, the economy is booming and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects a budget surplus between \$48 and \$68 billion. However, income distribution grows worse and worse. How can the federal government justify replacing workers and middle class Americans with poorly paid, contingent workers?

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 716 is a pro-contractor bill that simply states the Government is for sale. Therefore, I urge my Colleagues to oppose this radical measure.

AIDS AWARENESS DAY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize June 5th, 1998 as "AIDS Awareness Day" in Santa Barbara County. I particularly want to honor the over three thousand bicycle riders participating in the 1998 "AIDS Ride" from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

This outstanding effort runs directly through my district. In the city of Santa Barbara, the ride attracts thousands of well-wishers, bringing much-needed awareness to this deadly disease. It is the result of thousands of hours of work, and the desire of thousands of individuals to improve treatment and find a cure for AIDS.

It is currently estimated that by the year 2000, 26.6 million people in the world could be living with the AIDS virus. We must do all we possibly can to encourage steps that both educate people about the disease, and help those who have been affected with it. Recognizing June 15th, 1998 as "AIDS Awareness Day" in Santa Barbara County is a way we can help recognize all the brave people involved in this noble effort.

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON TIBET

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce with Mr. PORTER, Ms. MALONEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. COX, Mr. SMITH, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KENNEDY (MA), and Ms. PELOSI, a House Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the December 1997 report on Tibet of the International Commission of Jurists and on United States policy on Tibet.

This resolution reflects our serious concern for the plight of the Tibetan people and our strong support for the Dalai Lama's efforts to enter into serious discussions with the Chinese leadership on the future of Tibet.

The resolution cites a recent and comprehensive report by the International Committee of Jurists entitled "Tibet: Human Rights and the Rule of Law." It is the fourth report on Tibet by this distinguished body since 1959 and their first since 1964. The December 1997 report was inspired by the situation in Tibet that by all credible accounts, including the Department of State, remains unsettled and in many ways has grown more desperate.

I understand that Tibet, and more specifically the dialogue between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese leadership, is to be an important issue during the upcoming visit of President Clinton to Beijing. I hope that progress on Tibet will be made at the summit and this resolution is an effort to encourage that progress. Secretary Albright presented a strong case for progress on the dialogue in the summit preparatory meetings she held in Beijing earlier this month.